



September 2010

Volume 6, Issue 9

Copyright RCT

From The Editor...



IN THIS ISSUE
PAGE 2: Minutes

**PAGE 3 Al Explains
the Salmon Run.**

**PAGE 5: Tower work
galore!**

PAGE 8: Sparky

The Next “BIG THING!”

Is the upcoming Washington state QSO party, also known as the “Salmon Run”

In a state QSO party, the point of the game is for folks from out of state (and in-state) to call us here in Washington and work as many of us as possible. The other really big goal is to work a station in each of the state’s counties.

At last count I believe that there are thirty-nine counties in Washington. Please forgive me if I’m wrong because as a relative “newbie” to the state I’m still A little foggy on the total geography of this great state!

At any rate during the Salmon Run everyone tries to get every county that is on the air. Unfortunately, sometimes, like last year, all the counties are not represented on-the-air. But still, you can try to get all the ones that are there. It is a lot of fun, and one of the few times that hams from our state are actively sought out on the air.

So enjoy it while you can.

In conjunction with the normal Washington Stat QSO party, the Radio Club of Tacoma has been very successful in using the Salmon as a vehicle for raising funds for the club. This is all explained in detail in Al Ferguson’s NTOMS’ article. Please read it and be generous with your pledges. It all goes toward supporting your club and is that not a good thing?

I usually pledge a dollar per county. Your participation may be more, it may be less. It all goes to a good place!

73 for now, and we’ll hear you on the air!

Gary WGTx

Radio Club of Tacoma

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 04, 2010

Call to order

Present:

President: Jill K7JIL

Vice President: Rick KE7EMW

Treasurer: Joe K7AWJ

Board: Harry W7HSA

Board: Si KA7AQT

Board: Alan W7AML

Board Frank AC7JY

Minutes passed.

No correspondence

Treasurer's report

Frank: Question: does sales include last Saturday?

Answer: No only up to 31st, money not rcvd/ deposited at that time

Committees

- Property mgmt - hamfest list to board members

- Motion to approve list of items selected for sale

- Motion to approve the right for the PMT to choose a few more items that are not on this list at this time

Membership - 312

No unfinished business

New business - copy machine?

- scarce space,
- are we committed to paper,
- What do we get

Logger's Bark September 2010

- What to do with the old one
- VE does not need copier
- The machines upstairs make copies

Al - N7OMS will check current capabilities and report back.

Awards Banquet:

Rick can't manage the awards banquet if using TACID they need deposit soon.

Lakewood: no problems in past getting the community center.

Will call for volunteers in email, at meeting and on net.

Questions on repeater - status of new one

It is being assembled could be a couple months yet.

Need crystals ground

Alarm system:

WE7P: Bruce alarm 95% complete - functional except for outside sounders

The RCT board has to decide about phone dialer connection.

Make a of people who should have access - discuss the list of current names

The system will hold 74 codes

For next meeting - privacy policy

Harry - Nov 24 - thanksgiving another group has the meeting room but maybe it can be worked out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

The Running of the Hams... Al, N7OMS

Hobbies are something that you take up in your spare time.

There are many hobbies like photography, bird watching or ballroom dancing. Then there is Ham Radio and to me ham radio seems like the "Super Hobby". It has something for everyone of almost any age. I have heard of hams that were 6 years old or 96 years young. It is Super because lots of other hobbies touch upon ham radio. Building with all kinds of materials. Using it to help others. You can engage in radio activities any time of year and any time of day. Learn about other states or countries. Contact space stations, bounce signals off planes, meteors and the moon. Explore local parks looking for hidden transmitters. It even helps you develop skills that could get you a job. You learn to communicate better with ham radio since it builds confidence to talk to just about anyone. Software skills, engineering skills, building skills. I could go on as some of you well know. But let's get back to the first three hobbies I mentioned.

**Photography and ham radio.**

That's easy, you want to take pictures of you and your fellow hams having fun during Field Day. Take a picture of the empty field before and after the stations go up and wow. How about pictures of that new antenna so you can post it on your Facebook page. The view from that mountain top during the UHF, VHF contest. A few snapshots of the inside of that vintage radio you are repairing so you remember what went where. Or how about a picture of that antique telegraph key that's going on E-bay so you can buy that other antique telegraph key that will grace your bench.

Bird watching and ham radio.

Sue and I have been members of the local Audubon group for many years and have had lots of fun with their classes and bird watching events. But like the Radio Club, they too are a nonprofit and need to raise money. Mostly to support environmental education and conservation efforts. So they have a fundraiser once a year that is based on the number of bird species a person or group counts in a 24 hour period. Believe me it doesn't pay to support one of the best birders in a three state area. Marcus can find a lot of birds over a 24 hour period. So four years ago I had this bright idea to bring the "Birdathon" concept to the Radio Club of Tacoma.

"The Radio Club of Tacoma's Salmon Run Fund Raiser".

Ok we've really got to do something about that name! Anyway the fund raiser works like the Birdathon. The number of Washington counties W7DK works during the Washington State QSO party is what you base your pledge on. More details about the pledge drive can be found on the W7DK website and you should be receiving your letter and pledge sheet by mail anytime now.

The past three years have seen many improvements at the club house. New roof, new windows, new local area network, new alarm, new paint, many club items fixed. It also allows the club to plan ahead on improvements with knowledge that the money will be there. The library group can ask for and receive a budget that will add to this valuable resource. Nice to see recent copies of some of the many ARRL Books available. I scan the check out list and see that the newer copies of the Antenna book is popular. That's good, more value for your membership.

The club's officers should always be on the lookout for ways to make membership more attractive. Rumor is that your HF managers will be asking for a healthy budget next year. That means improvements are coming to the club's stations. We already have a group fixing and doing maintenance on the club's beam rotator. We will be able to see where the beam is pointed without leaning out the window to look. Also, you will see new wire antennas in the air. We are going to be running two stations this year in the contest and some needed improvements to the antennas are getting done. All these things are possible because of your generous donations.

So please consider the Radio Club of Tacoma in your charitable donations this year. We are a 501(c) 3 and you can claim your donations as a deduction on your taxes. I think that the club officers have done a fine job of managing your donations and have heard many comments about how the club house has changed for the better of the last few years. Let's hope that trend continues into the future. It takes resources to advance and that's what this fund raiser is all about. Moving the club's assets forward to better serve the membership.

Oh, I almost forgot the Ballroom Dancing! That's to keep my wife happy so my time spent on ham radio is not a problem. So what kind of things to you do with your spare time and how many of them lead you back to ham radio?

AL, N7OMS

Below, we see Pat, WT7N, Rich KR7W, Harry N7DOE and Al N7OMS at last year's Salmon Run.



**A Tale of Two Dipoles
Al, N7OMS**

It started several months ago. I have wanted to replace all the rope that was holding up the club's antennas. With the recent work on the rotator and the talk about two transmitters working the upcoming Salmon Run things started to roll. During the Bunny Hunt at Fort Flagler, Sue and I shared a camp site with Rich and Pat. We got to talking about dipoles and the discussion went to the club's sky wires and how were we going to operate the Salmon Run contest. It was planned to have the run station in the HF room and the search and pounce station in the museum. The antennas we had just were not going to "get 'er done" So Rich laid out a plan. With a little over two weeks till the contest we didn't have a lot of time. Rich works well under pressure. He is the Radio Club's Michael Jordan of projects.

So the next week I went before the Board and asked to remove all sky wire and replace them with an 80 meter dipole and a 40 meter dipole. Both to be installed as inverted V's from new tower arms. They said yes and seemed to be somewhat excited. Well Joe Lester was excited. So with a budget of \$400 to pay for all the parts, I was away. An e-mail to Chuck, Rich and Bruce and with some over-all plans floating in my head we met Saturday September 4th. By the end of the meeting with a list of parts to pick up at the big box store it looked like it was really going to happen.

It is now late Sunday the 5th and all the old sky wires are gone and two tower arms are in place. That's a lot of work but the tower looks so clean now. I would guess that the ground crew's necks are a little sore. But the real work was done by Rich. I learned a few things about climbing a tower. Rich has training and experience and was careful. You could see that by just watching. Have a few more things to order and Rich and Chuck are going to be spending some time in the Acme Labs.

With some luck we will have our dipoles and the rotator installed by the third weekend of September in time for the Club's annual fund raiser. So the next time you are by the club house take a few minutes and check out the view of the sky. Then maybe give a listen to the club's stations and see how the new wires work.

A view from the bottom!

This shot shows how clean the tower is now. All of the old antennas have been removed, and the new ones are going up in their place.

A big round of thanks should go out to Al, Rich, Chuck and Bruce for their efforts on the club's behalf!

...Ed





Al N7OMS dons protective head gear to protect his noggin from falling objects from the tower. Bruce WE7P keeps out of the way of falling objects near the garage.



Bruce WE7P and Al N7OMS position the big ladder to begin to take down the old wire antennas. Hmmmm. How does it go together? Al N7OMS and Rich KR7W line up the parts for the 5 ft long arm with pulleys that was placed at the 75 ft level on the tower. The new 80 Meter Inverted Vee will be supported by this arm.



Rich KR7W begins to remove the old wire antenna "space junk" from the tower. This old pulley was found on the tower at about the 50 ft level. The pulley had a 1/8 inch steel cable tangled up in it. No one could figure out what it was for so it was removed. The more imaginative members of the work party suspect that Hans Gruber placed this on the tower many years ago.



This shot shows the old iron wire museum antenna being removed. The Museum committee decided to remove the old doublet antenna because it did not work very well. Now the new 80 M and 40 M dipoles will be able to be switched to the Museum from a control panel in the HF station room. This operation will prevent the museum and the HF station from operating on the same band and interfering with each other. The Museum hopes to be making more contacts with the vintage gear with the new and improved 80 M and 40 M antennas.

Dateline: September 2010

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more...

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

- Our Legacy...
- Mystery photo
- Around the Club
- Hamfest Review
- HF Rotor Project
- ARRL and such
- Attaboys

Our Legacy

From the Radio Club of Tacoma Archives,

Last month we reported, based on then reliable information that C & G Electronics was closed. Turns out that the Norberg family has not made a final decision, so its up in the air at this point. We'll try to keep you informed when we get

better information.

Mystery Photo

Last months mystery photo was of Gene Dodge's , W7BTV Shack, an active member in the '60s.

The mystery photo here is part of the club's history and many may be able to identify the machinery and why it was important to the Radio Club of Tacoma... Any guesses

Around the Club...

Our string of popular Open House/Swapmeets on the last Saturday of the month continued with a respectable attendance on 28 August.

Elsewhere in this issue there is a photo spread on our HF Station Rotor repair work.

Its fall and time for two things, the annual Nomination and Election of Officers and our Salmon Run Pledge Drive. Al Ferguson and the team are getting ready to make this year's Salmon Run QSO party and combined Radio Club of Tacoma fund drive another successful event. Sparky's told that we may even have a bit of a pot luck to entice folks to drop by and either get on the air or just socialize.

The Last **General Membership Meeting** in August brought us an inside and up front look at the Radio Club of Tacoma's extensive library, presented by none other than the Librarian his-self, Doug ("you'll find me in the stacks") Oakman AD7AV. In addition to bringing in a broad array of library holdings, Doug



outlined the purpose and progress of our Library program and the availability of the circulating library for members.

Larry KD4VOM followed up with an overview of the Club's historical documents and media. There is a slow but steady process underway to complete their identification and inventory. Our clubhouse is certainly not the optimum environment to store them in so we need to consider any and all alternatives available to preserve these rare and sometimes one of a kind documents.

Hamfest 2010 is history...

Well now, the Radio Club of Tacoma's 42nd annual Hamfest is behind us. By most accounts it was another success, bringing over 50 vendors and well over 400 attendees to the event. Again this year, Rich Patrick KR7W, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN and Worth W7WG conspired to present the W7OS antique radio demonstration. This always draws a crowd of interested folks.

Here's some photos of the big show...





The HF Rotor Repair Project

Many of you may know that the Club's HF station rotor hasn't been working all that well over the past few months/years... Recently a team was formed to see what could be done.

Here's a photo/essay of the first step, taking the rotor assembly down so that it could be inspected, the problem identified and necessary repairs made...

Taking the Rotor Down...



ARRL and other stuff:

CONVERSATIONS

Amok Time

Star Trek fans will recognize the title as that of an episode in which the normally logical, unemotional Mr Spock suffers through pon farr, the Vulcan mating urge. His behavior changes dramatically - even challenging Captain Kirk to a fight-to-the-death and apparently prevailing, to his extreme dismay. But for the subterfuge of Dr McCoy, the story would not have had its TV-style happy ending. Here in real life, we have our own amok times - they are called "election years".

One of Amateur Radio's mantras - not always followed - is to refrain from discussing

politics (and religion and sexual topics) over the air. Unfortunately, it's easy to hear what happens when that advice is not followed - the results are generally unpleasant for the parties involved and anyone tuned in. During the political "silly season", we should redouble our efforts at restraint, particularly in such an energetic year as this one is proving to be.

The many off-the-air channels of Amateur Radio - club newsletters, Web sites, on-line forums, email reflectors, etc - are just as worthy of restraint and consideration for the views and feelings of others. It is all too easy to poison the collegial atmosphere of a club with an injection of non-amateur politics. When a member is made to feel uncomfortable, nothing may be said outright, but he or she will often find something else to do on meeting night or find a better use for membership dues. That's a loss to all of Amateur Radio.

The best policy is to "check politics at the door" in any amateur group or forum without an obviously political mission. This suggestion has nothing to do with limiting one's freedom of expression - except to acknowledge the concomitant responsibility to use that freedom wisely and act accordingly. Before pressing that PTT switch or hitting the ENTER key, ask yourself if there isn't a better forum for making a politicized comment.

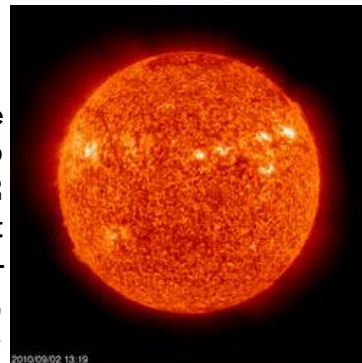
Does a political signature line really need to be part of emails about electronics or operating? Does a club newsletter really need to include items promoting a particular political viewpoint or issue? There are many alternate forums for expressing political views in which debate is encouraged - use them. Editors, officers, and moderators need to keep a steady hand on the tiller when navigating the rough seas in the political windy season. (See the editorial in August 2006 *QST* for information on [IRS restrictions of 501\(c\)3 non-profit organizations](#) with respect to political campaigns.)

Amateur Radio and by extension, amateur organizations, should be a refuge from the hurly-burly of politics. That's one of our great strengths - the hobby is open to kings and paupers on an equal basis with many great over-the-air friendships between people from wildly different walks of life. It can remain that way but only if each and every one of us works at it - I'm no different in having to watch out for (and sometimes recover from) the urge to throw in one's two cents. Like Star Trek and elections there's always another episode, but hurt feelings and resentment can last a lifetime.

73, Ward NØAX

Solar Update

Tad "[We turn the Sun away](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: Over the past week three new sunspot groups appeared: Group 1101 was already in place since August 24, group 1102 emerged on August 29, and on September 1, new sunspot groups 1103 and 1104 appeared. From August 26-September 1, the daily sunspot number was 23, 11, 11, 25, 28, 27 and 51. Over those same days, the total relative size of all the sunspot groups in millionths of a solar hemisphere was 100, 100, 130, 170, 180, 220 and 270. The average daily sunspot numbers rose more than 17 points to 25.4, when compared to the previous seven day period. Geomagnetic indicators began the week showing unsettled conditions, but they calmed down to quiet levels again. Predicted solar flux for the next 12 days is 76, 76, 77, 76, 75, 75, 74, 74, 76, 78, 80 and 80. For September 2-18, the planetary A index is predicted to be 5, then 12 and 8 for September 19-20. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, September 3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Emily Dickinson's *As Summer into Autumn Slips*.



Attaboys:

Attaboys this month include all who worked so long and hard to make the Hamfest a success; Planning, reception, VE Team, Admission, Raffle, Setup Load in and Load Out, the Snack Bar operation, the W7OS Demonstration, The Country Store, the Test Station and for sure Connie who provided us with over a hundred photos, many of which are seen in this month's Sparky.

And to the team that tackled the HF Rotor problem a Sparky Tip 'O the Hat; Alan KB7SVU, Crystal K7XK, Lynn WR7G, Bruce WE7P, Frank AC7JY

View from the Shack...

By the time this edition hits the road, the annual W7DK at the Fair operations will be well underway. This year headed up by Stephen (Morty) Morton AD7AB. His team includes: Andrew Quamme K7ASQ, Crystal Quamme K7XK, Bob Duley KF7HQB, Dick KF7HQU, Harry Adams W7HSA.

Salmon Run is almost here, Al Ferguson N7OMS is spearheading the fundraising event associated with the Western Washington DX Association Salmon Run (Washington State QSO Party) again this year.

Sparky

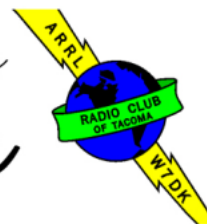
"Artificial Intelligence is no match for natural stupidity"

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA**... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

Club Officers

President: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net
Secretary: Ken Gibson, N7ELF 253-759-6919 n7elf@junett.com
Treasurer: Joe Lester 73radio@gmail.com

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Lentz, W7AML alentz@centurytel.net
Harry Adams W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com
Silas Nelson KA7AQT sinelsen@amum.ups.edu
Gary McAdams, WG7X wg7x@arri.net
Frank Palmer AC7JY ac7jy@msn.com

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...
Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

ADVERTISE in the BARK: \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

Want / For Sale ads are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



SEPTEMBER 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays September 8th and 22nd at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday August 4th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.